**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Previously presented) Method for hot dip coating a metal strand (1), in which the metal strand (1) is passed vertically through a coating tank (3) that holds the molted coating metal (2) and through an upstream guide channel (4) of well-defined height (H), wherein an electromagnetic field is generated in the region of the guide channel (4) by means of at least two inductors (5) installed on either side of the metal strand (1) for the purpose of retaining the coating metal (2) in the coating tank (3), and wherein a predetermined volume flow (Q) of coating metal is supplied to the guide channel (4) in the region of its vertical extent (H), wherein the predetermined volume flow (Q) of coating metal (2) supplied to the guide channel (4) represents the entire replenishment volume of coating metal (2) per unit time that is necessary to maintain a desired level (h) of coating metal (2) in the coating tank (3), the predetermined volume flow being supplied to the guide channel in

a region between the inductors, whereby the level (h) of the coating metal (2) is determined only by the volume flow (Q).

2. (Previously presented) Method in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the volume flow (Q) of coating metal (2) that is supplied to the guide channel (4) is supplied under open=loop or closed-loop control.

3. (Currently amended) Device for hot dip coating a metal strand (1), in which the metal strand (1) is passed vertically through a coating tank (3) that holds the molten coating metal (2) and through an upstream guide channel (4), with at least two inductors (5) installed on either side of the metal strand (1) in the area of the guide channel (4) for generating an electromagnetic field for retaining the coating metal (2) in the coating tank (3), wherein at least one supply line (6, 7, 8, 9) for supplying a predetermined volume flow (Q) of coating metal (2) opens into the guide channel (4) in the region of the vertical extent (H) of the guide channel (4), for carrying out the method in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the supply line (6, 7, 8, 9) opens into the region of the long side (11) and into the region of the short side (10) of the guide channel (4),

wherein level (h) of the coating metal (2) in the coating tank (3) is only determined by the predetermined volume flow (Q).

4. (Previously presented) Device in accordance with Claim 3, wherein the width (B) or the diameter of the supply line (6, 7, 8, 9) is small relative to the dimension of the long side (11) of the guide channel (4).

5. (Previously presented) Device in accordance with Claim 4, wherein the width (B) or the diameter of the supply line (6, 7, 8, 9) is no more than 10% of the width of the long side (11) of the guide channel (4).

6. (Previously presented) Device in accordance with Claim 3, wherein the coating tank (3) is connected to a supply system (12) for coating metal (2), from which coating metal (2) is conveyed into the supply line or supply lines (6, 7, 8, 9).